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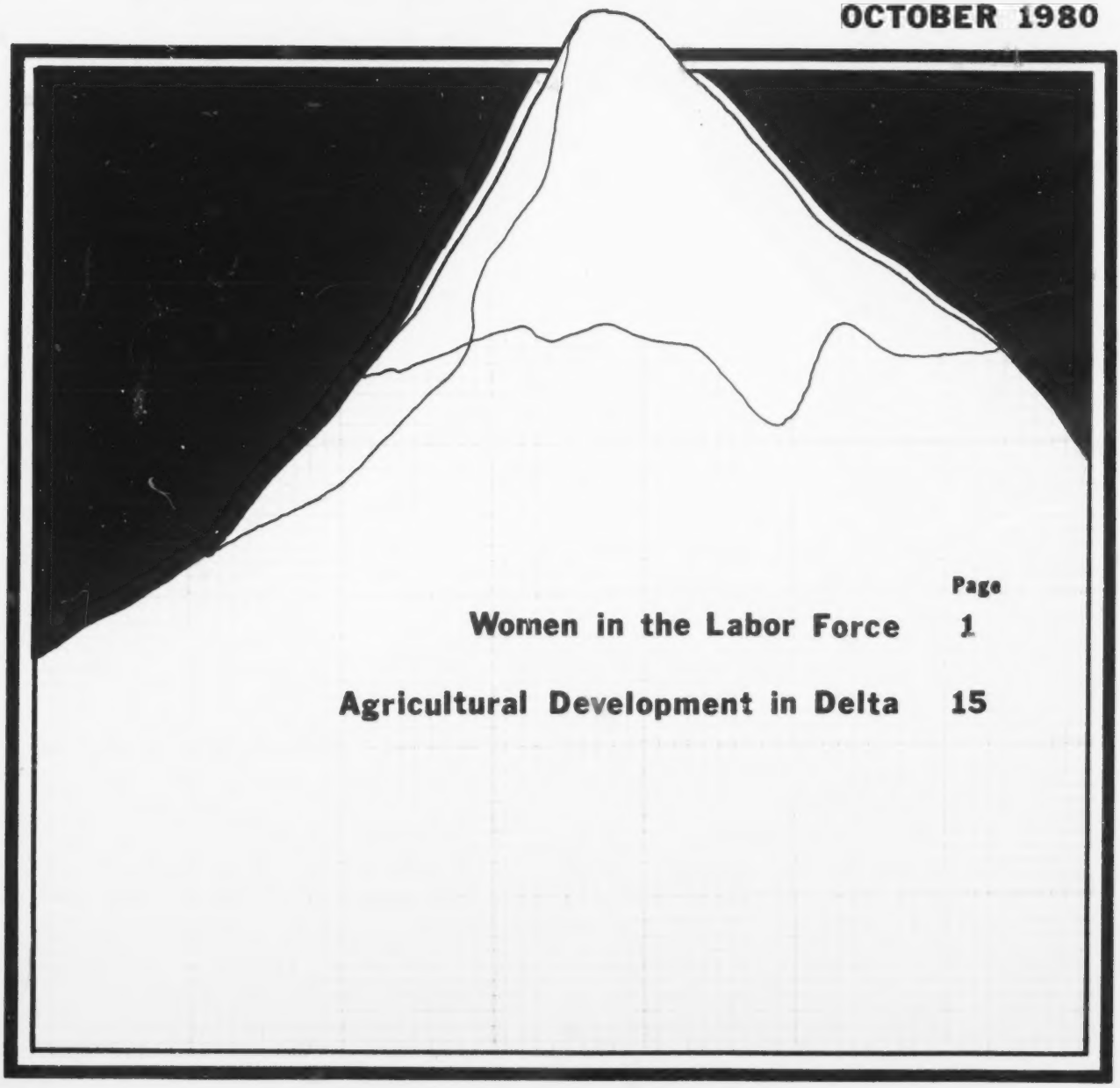
ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

OCTOBER 1980



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STATE OF ALASKA · DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS SECTION
JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

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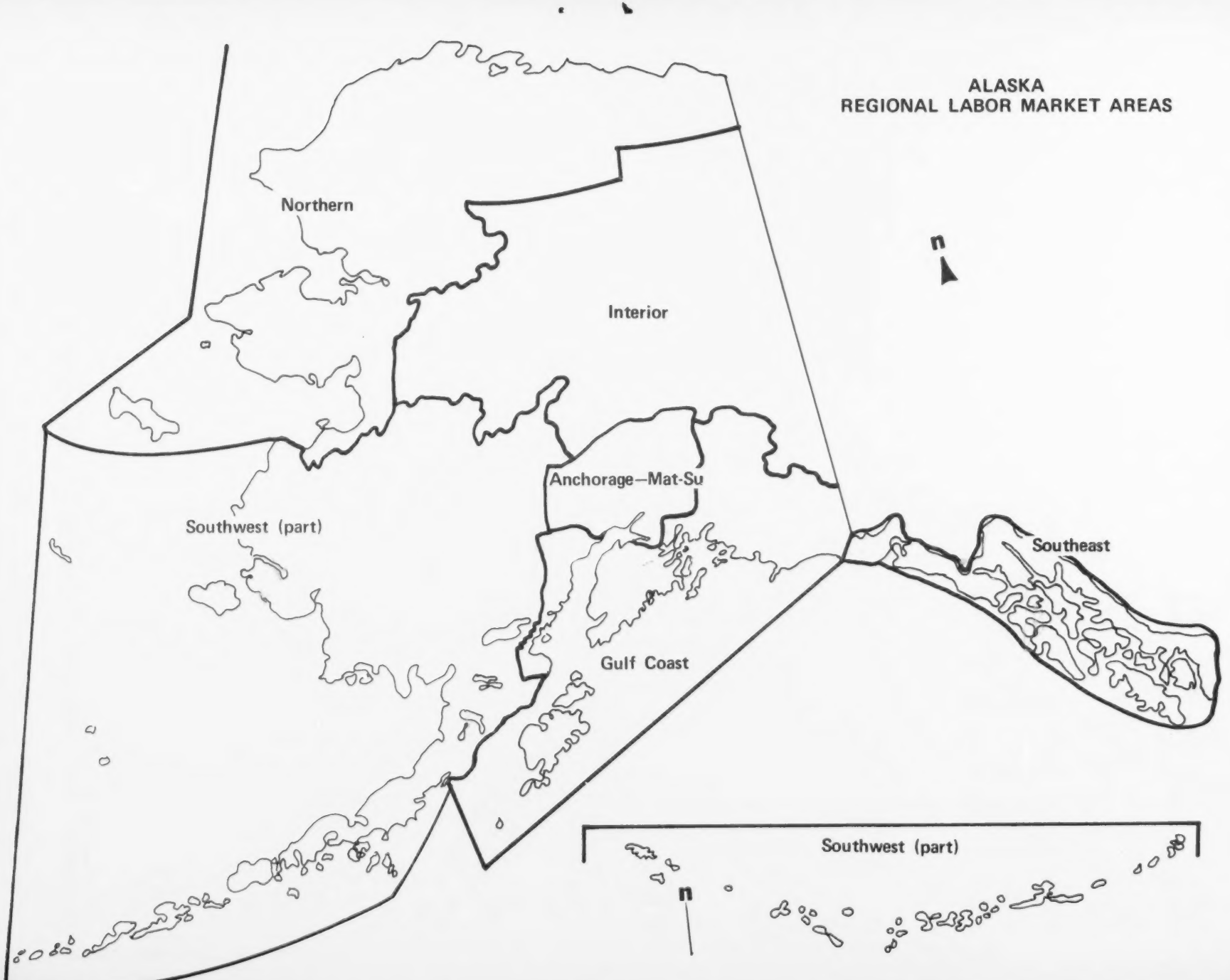
ALASKA
REGIONAL LABOR MARKET AREAS
Northern
Interior
Anchorage—Mat-Su
Southwest (part)
Southeast
Gulf Coast
Southwest (part)

ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

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State of Alaska

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October 1980

Chris Miller, Editor

WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE

By Jeff Hadland

Women in Alaska play an important role in the labor market. The degree of participation, the characteristics of the female labor force and the comparability of the Alaska female worker to the rest of the nation is of great interest to administrators, planners and the general public. Many programs are geared toward identifying and correcting inequities or measuring the impacts of employment or affirmative action programs. This report is an overview of the current available data.

Participation of Women

The participation rate of women in the labor force, the number of women working or seeking work as a percentage of all women, has increased dramatically in Alaska and in the United States in general since 1950. The number of women in the labor force has increased at a much faster rate than the overall labor force. In fact, 60 percent of the increase in the labor force size in 1979 can be attributed to new female participants. For the United States as a whole, the participation rate for women was approximately 51 percent in 1979, with the 20-24 year age group having the highest rate of participation (66 percent). Women comprised approximately 42 percent of the total U.S. workforce in March of 1980, fast approaching their total proportion of the population.

In 1970 over 46 percent of all women 16 years of age or older in Alaska were in the labor force. The comparable figure for the United States was 43.4 percent. We would expect that the current Alaska female participation rate would be greater than the United States rate of 51 percent. This general increase in participation by women can be attributed to several economic, demographic and social factors. Higher wages outside the home, significant growth in industries where women hold a large proportion of jobs, reduced or increased efficiences in in-home work, later marriage and smaller families allowing pursuit of new opportunities, and the "changing role" of women all may play a part in the new number of female workers in the labor force. In Alaska, the state's broadening economic base, with large government and service sectors, has opened up many jobs for women. Although women have made gains in the "traditionally male" occupations of construction and mining they are still very much underrepresented in many non-traditional occupations.

Laborforce participation is highest among those who are most in need of income. Divorced Alaskan women had a 79.8 percent participation rate in 1970 compared with a U.S. rate of 71.5 percent. The 1978 U.S. rate for divorced women was 74 percent.

Growth in participation of women as second wage earners in the household is the fastest growing group. This is a national trend. Three out of five married couple families in 1979 had at least two family members working. Forty-two percent of women with pre-school children were working in the U.S. in that year.

EMPLOYMENT

While women are joining the labor force in record number and are approaching parity in numbers with men, their occupational distribution and earnings levels are much different. Female occupations are heavily concentrated in the lower paying services, finance and trade sectors. The Alaska Department of Labor's current employment (BLS 790) survey taken in June, 1980 shows women comprising nearly 73 percent of finance, insurance and real estate employment and 61 percent of services employment. By contrast women comprise less then 7 per-

cent of construction employment and less than 17 percent of employment in the mining sector. Most private industries in Alaska do exhibit higher proportions of women employed than in national samples. Manufacturing employment has a much smaller female component than the U.S. in general because the Alaska manufacturing sector is primarily timber processing, with men holding the majority of those positions. U.S. manufacturing is primarily comprised of textiles, electronics and other processing activities in which women have been employed in significant numbers. The 1976 Survey of Income and Education (SIE), a large scale version of the monthly current population survey, found that 41 percent of employed Alaska women were engaged in clerical work compared with 33 percent of U.S. women. Much of this can be attributed to the large number of government jobs in the state.

The executive branch of Alaska State government employs over 4,100 women, about 49 percent of the state government workforce. Women make up approximately 90 percent of office and clerical staff while comprising a much smaller share of technical and administrative staff. Earnings of women show a similar disparity. Median income of women in the United States is only 59 percent of the level for men.

The disparity in jobs and earnings can be attributed to many different things. The length and type of educational and training pursuits women have followed has tended to reduce their opportunities for advancement and higher paying jobs. Many female workers are recent entrants into the job market and have not, therefore, had the chance to achieve the seniority of their male counterparts. Nationally the educational gap is narrowing. One of every two master's and doctoral degrees and one of every five professional degrees are now going to women. Over 50 percent of all degrees awarded to University of Alaska graduates are now earned by women. If women continue to receive advanced education during the 1980's they may be better able to compete with men for professional and administrative positions.

Job Service Applicants

Information on women who are unemployed can also be derived from Job Service information provided by applicants. The Employment Security Automated Reporting System (ESARS) is the source of this information.

Most female job service applicants are high school graduates. Most exhibit characteristics similar to their male counterparts. In addition they appear to utilize job service in proportions comparable to their proportion of population. Occupational characteristics of women applicants can also be derived from ESARS information. (See Tables 1 and 2).

Prospects

Future opportunities for Alaska women in the labor force will depend upon employers, job seekers and the state economy. Discriminatory practices and attitudes by employers with regard to hiring and promotion are a definite, but difficult to measure, part of the inequitable distribution of jobs and earnings. This discrimination may be part of a general societal attitude that is adopted not only by employers, but workers as well. Perceptions of the "appropriate" occupational role can simply perpetuate past inequities. Career counseling should be geared toward the encouragement of occupational choices from the broad spectrum available, especially those in nontraditional occupations in high growth industries. A more efficient use of labor resources would result from a freer choice among the career options.

Of those women seeking professional careers, many have focused their energies on education, health care or the service sector in general. Nonprofessional female workers are highly concentrated in the clerical and office occupations. Slower growth relative to the rest of the economy will create an oversupply of job seekers in these areas with an attendant reduction in relative wages.

TABLE 1

CHARACTERISTICS OF JOB SERVICE APPLICANTS PLACED: ALASKA
October 1, 1979 to July 31, 1980

	Total	Female	Percent Female/ Total
TOTAL	16,791	7,691	46%
AGE			
Less than 15	348	154	44%
16-17	1,380	602	44%
18-19	2,381	1,109	47%
20-21	2,241	1,023	46%
22-24	2,703	1,276	47%
25-29	2,958	1,278	43%
30-34	1,864	815	44%
35-39	1,043	523	50%
40-44	655	302	46%
45-54	784	406	52%
55-64	362	179	49%
65+	69	26	38%
Education (Years)			
0-7	278	83	30%
8-11	4,002	1,636	41%
12	7,687	3,649	47%
12+	4,824	2,323	48%
Race			
White	12,573	5,801	46%
Black	880	416	47%
Hispanic	253	89	35%
Native	2,676	1,203	45%
Veteran	2,888	186	6%
Economically disadvantaged	3,601	1,642	46%
Welfare	424	358	84%
WIN	376	329	88%
Employment Status			
Full-time	640	366	57%
Part-time	488	278	57%
Not Working	15,663	7,047	45%

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System.

TABLE 2

JOB SERVICE APPLICANTS BY OCCUPATION: ALASKA
October 1, 1979 to July 31, 1980

	Total	Female	Percent Female/ Total
Professional, Technical, Managerial	2,913	1,457	50%
Clerical, Sales	5,406	4,468	83%
Services	3,715	2,278	61%
Farm, Fish, Forestry	474	81	17%
Processing	550	197	36%
Machine Trades	794	36	5%
Bench Work	178	71	40%
Structural	3,187	104	3%
Transport	2,197	270	12%
TOTAL	22,252	10,456	47%

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System.

Increases in labor force participation by women will also create demand for additional apprenticeship programs, professional education and day care facilities. The challenge is to meet these needs and provide for equality of opportunity.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The national unemployment rate for women in July 1980 was 8.2 percent compared with 7.6 percent for men. The female unemployment rate has been consistently higher than the unemployment rate for men over the last 30 years. Alaska unemployment rates for women

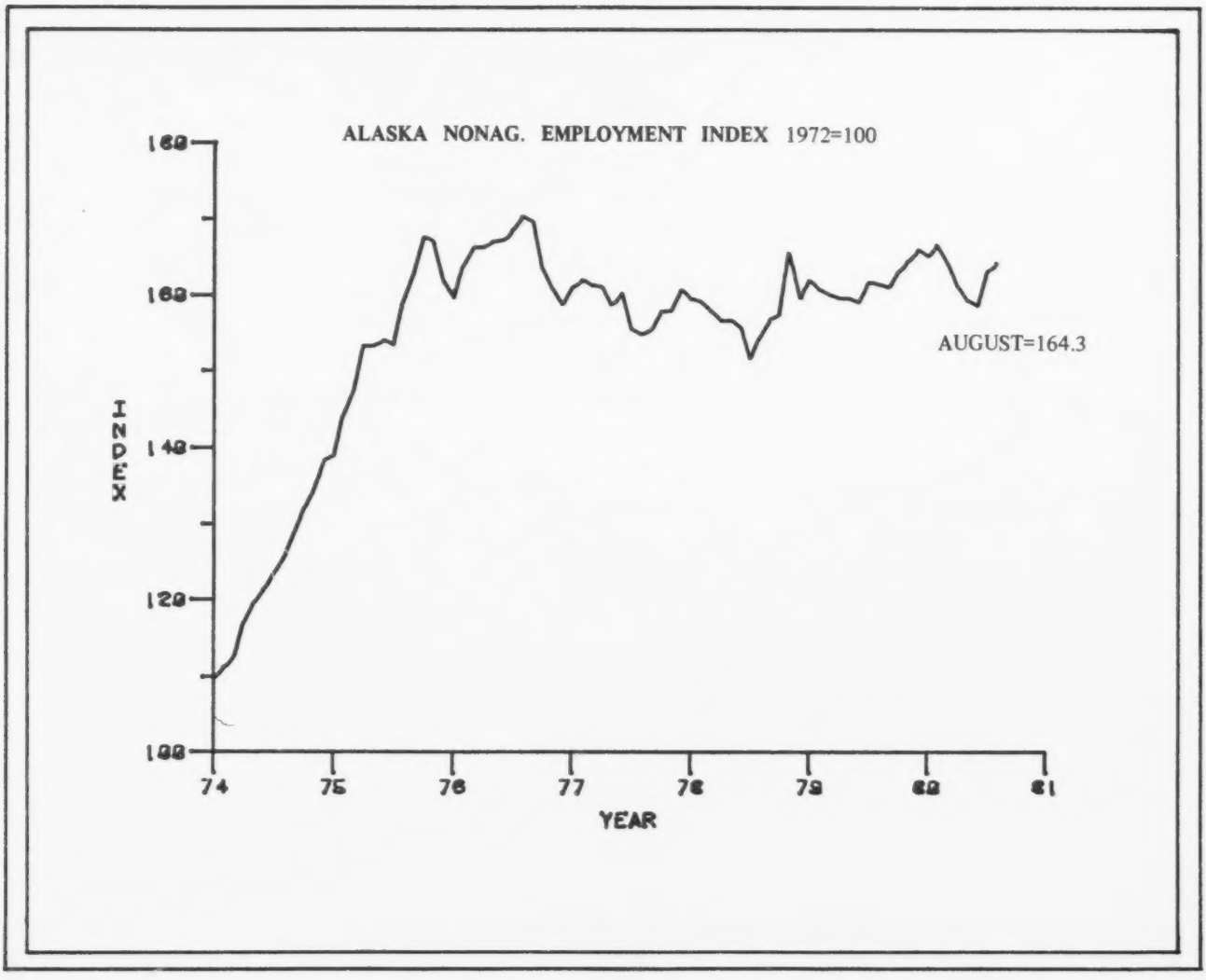
are unavailable.

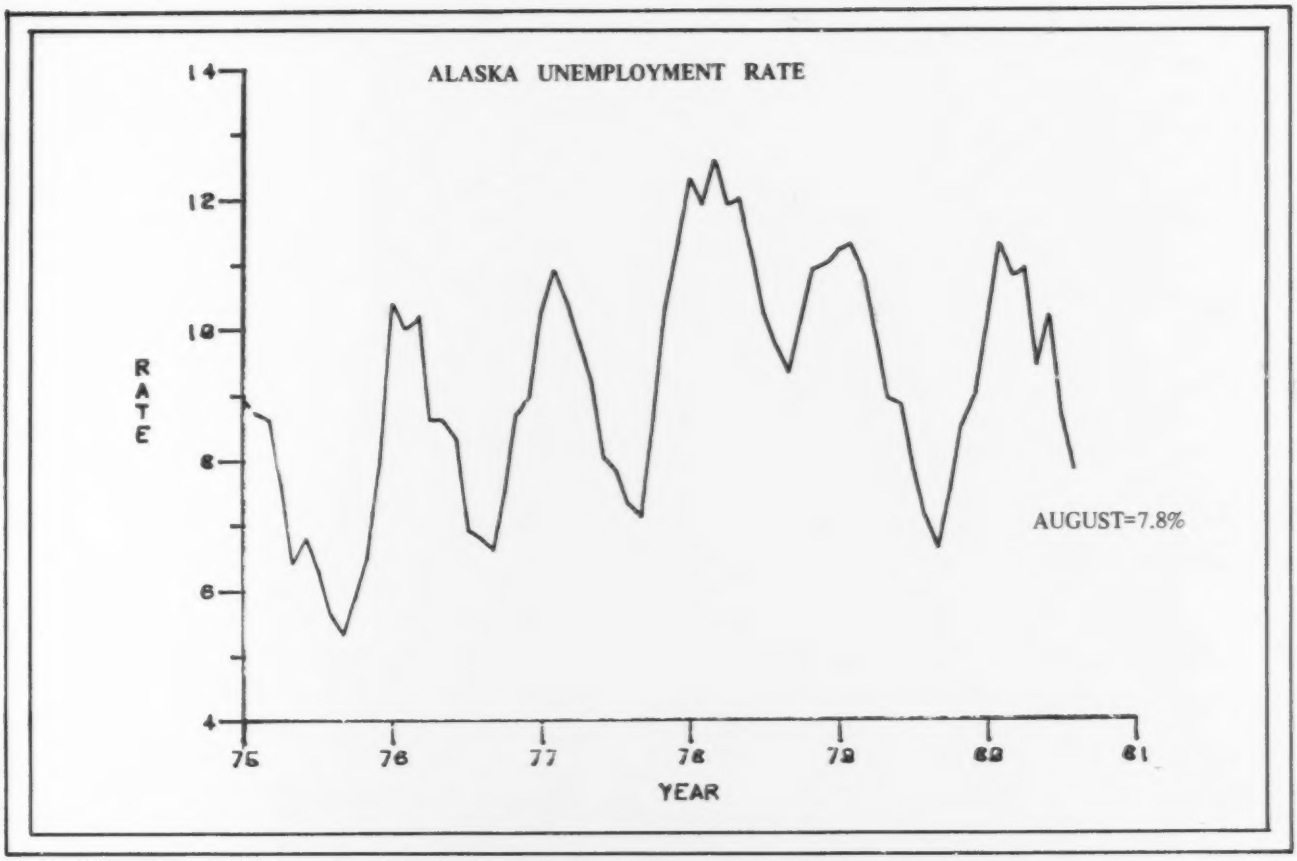
The number of female insured unemployed claimants remains fairly stable throughout the year while the number of male claimants exhibits a dramatic seasonal fluctuation. Much of this can be attributed to the higher percentage of women in the stable, nonseasonal occupations and the high percentage of men in the construction and other seasonal industries.

For more information please consult Women in Alaska's Labor Force, Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

ALASKA'S LABOR FORCE IN AUGUST
by Chris Miller

Total unemployment in Alaska's labor force declined from 8.6 percent in July to 7.8 percent in August. The decline in the unemployment rate was due primarily to a decline in the number of unemployed rather than a significant increase in employment. The size of Alaska's labor force actually declined by about 1 percent over the month. A decline in Alaska's labor force from July to August is not out of the ordinary, and actually occurs about half the time.





Total wage and salary employment increased approximately 1 percent over the previous month. Employment among private industry increased approximately 1100 workers, the vast majority of which was in the construction industry. Though most industries also experienced some growth, the manufacturing industry experienced an employment decline of approximately 4 percent.

With the end of the Bristol Bay salmon run in July, seafood processing in that area declined by approximately 1000 workers. Employment in the rest of the seafood processing industry remained relatively stable compared to the previous month. This was particularly true in the Kodiak and Cook Inlet areas where better than average catches were experienced.

Employment in the wood products industry remained virtually unchanged from the previous month. Most of the mills were in full operation however some of the logging companies reduced their workforce slightly. The decline in demand for wood products which hit the timber industry in Washington and Oregon earlier this year is apparently beginning to have some effect here in Alaska. Industry officials expect to see a significant decline in logging employment during the month of September as a result of the softening demand for wood products.

Employment in the construction industry increased approximately 9 percent from July to August. Though the housing and building construction industry did experience some growth over the month, the majority of the increased employment was in the heavy construction sector.

Tourist related activity around the state has most likely reached its peak during

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT 1/ 3/
BY PLACE OF WORK
ALASKA

	P/ 8/80	R/ 7/80	CHANGES FROM: 3/79	7/80	3/79
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY	184600	182700	181400	1900	3200
MINING.....	6900	6700	5800	200	1100
CONSTRUCTION.....	12300	11300	13100	1000	-800
MANUFACTURING.....	20300	21700	19500	-900	1300
FOOD & KINDRED PRODUCTS.....	14000	15000	13000	-1000	1000
LUMBER & PAPER PRODUCTS.....	4000	4000	3900	0	100
ALL OTHER MANUFACTURING.....	2300	2700	2600	100	200
TRANS. COMM. & UTILITIES.....	17900	17700	18200	200	-300
TRUCKING & WAREHOUSING.....	2400	2300	2300	100	100
WATER TRANSPORTATION.....	1400	1400	1500	0	-100
AIR TRANSPORTATION.....	5400	5400	5700	0	-300
OTHER TRANS. COMM. & UTILITIES	8700	8600	8700	100	0
TRADE.....	30500	30200	31000	300	-500
WHOLESALE TRADE.....	6000	5900	6100	100	-100
RETAIL TRADE.....	24500	24300	24900	200	-400
GEN. MERCHANDISE & APPAREL	4200	4100	4200	100	0
FOOD STORES.....	3300	3300	3300	0	0
EATING & DRINKING PLACES....	8200	8200	8700	0	-500
OTHER RETAIL TRADE.....	8300	8200	8200	100	100
FINANCE-INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE.	8500	8600	8900	-100	-400
SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS.....	33500	33000	32200	500	1300
TOTAL GOVERNMENT.....	54200	53500	52700	700	1500
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.....	17900	18200	18800	-300	-900
STATE GOVERNMENT.....	15100	15000	14800	100	300
LOCAL GOVERNMENT.....	21200	20300	19100	900	2100

1/ PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

2/ INCLUDES TEACHERS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA.

3/ BENCHMARK DATE MARCH 1979.

P/ DENOTES PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES.

R/ DENOTES REVISED ESTIMATES.

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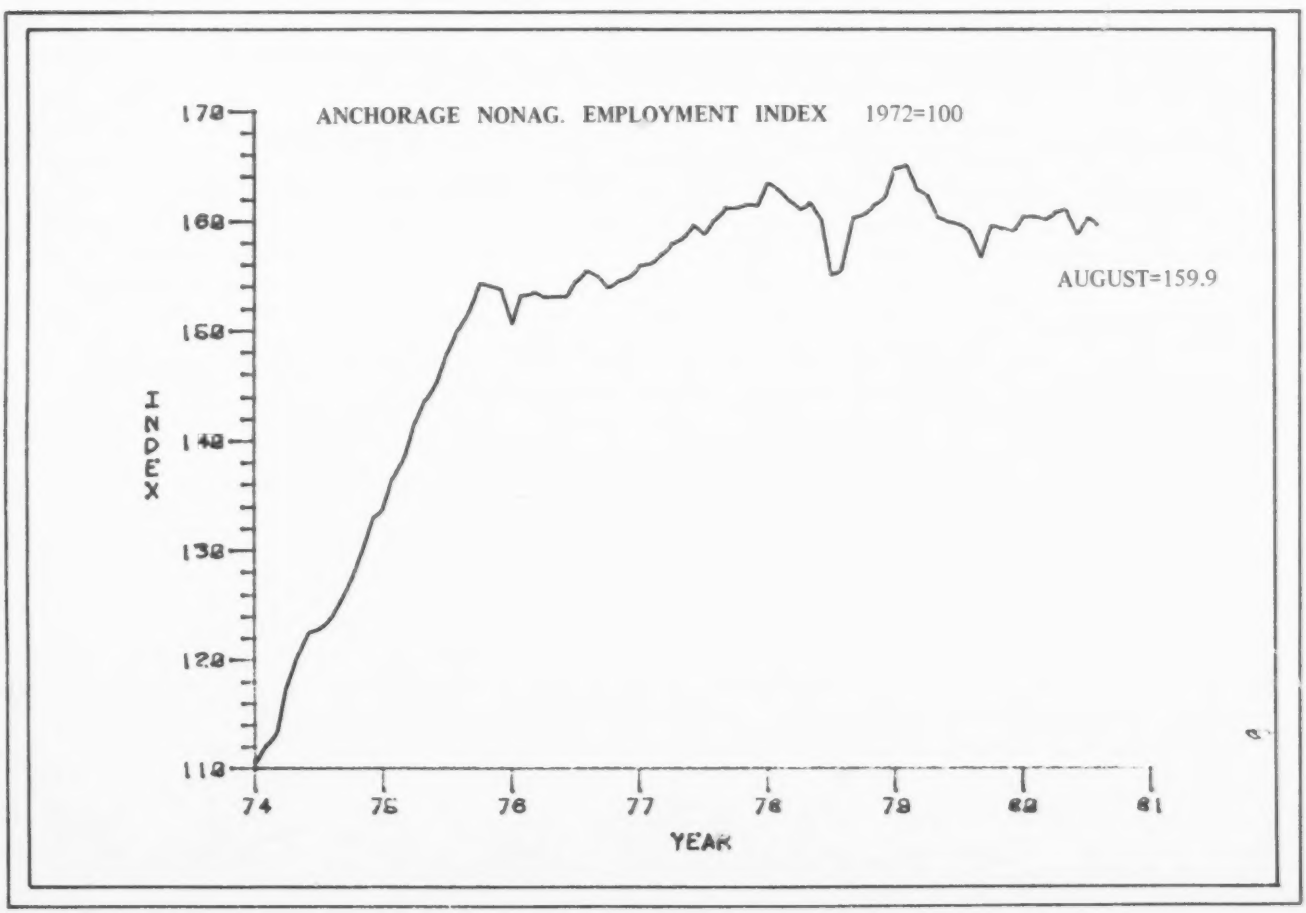
the month of August. Hotel employment increased approximately 3 percent over the month and the retail trade sector catering to tourism had no significant growth.

In the government sector, normal seasonal shifts were behind the changes in employment levels at the federal, state and local levels.

ANCHORAGE LABOR FORCE IN AUGUST

The August unemployment rate in Anchorage was 7.2 percent. The estimate of total employment has been constant over the year, but total unemployment was up by 200 resulting in a rate which is slightly higher than that recorded in August of 1979.

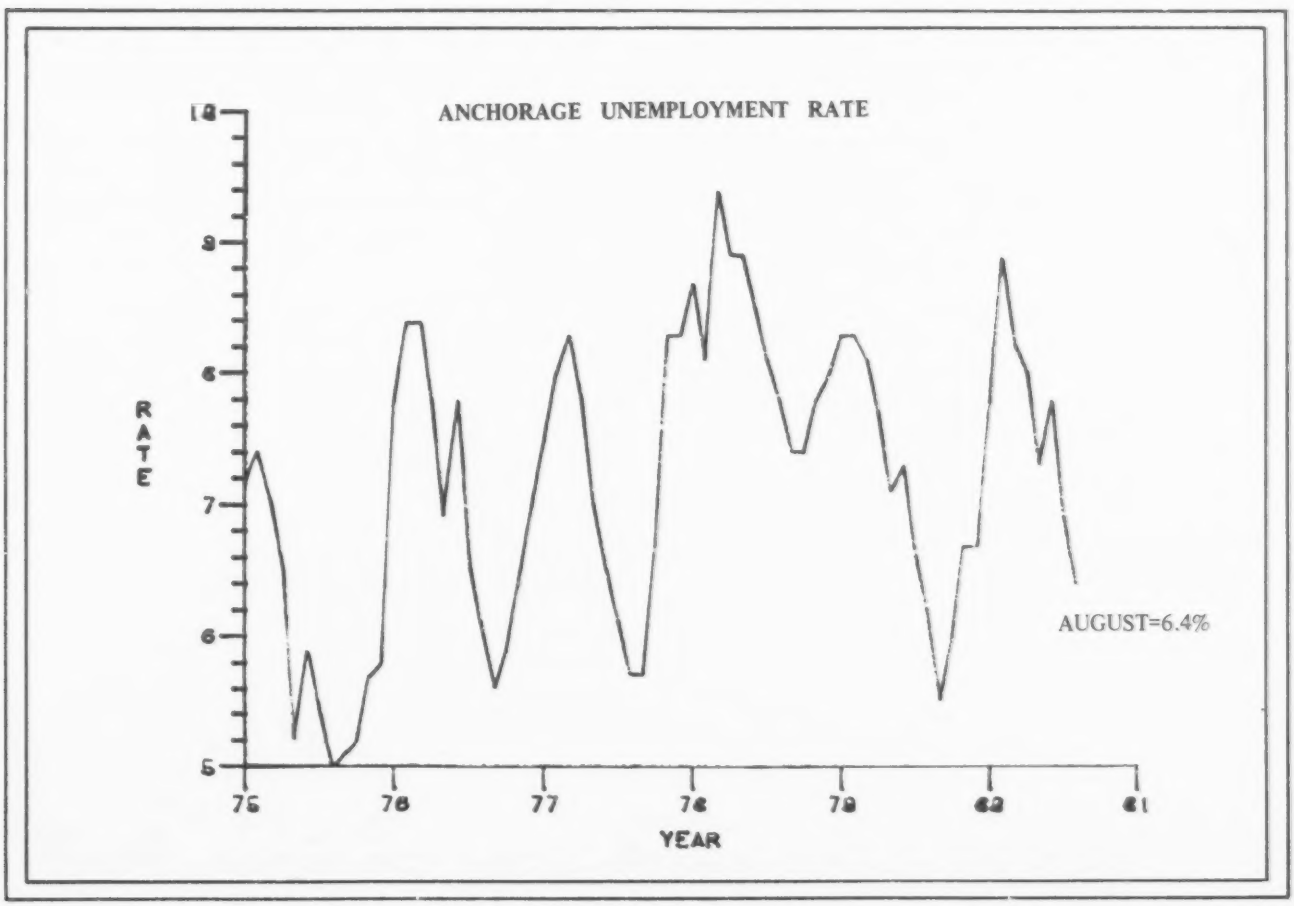
The nonagagricultural employment index continues to oscillate around 160. In August, it was below at 159.6. The index first crossed 160 in August of 1977, and has been reasonably close to that point since that time. This points out that total wage and salary employment, when adjusted for seasonal changes, has remained relatively constant for the past 3 years. However, there have been some shifts in the employment of the industries. Construction is the big decliner, but federal government is also down from three years ago. These declines are offset by increases in nearly every other industry, but the biggest gains are in state and local government, mining, trade and finance insurance and real estate.



The monthly changes in employment by industry show that the employment peak for the year has almost been reached. Most industries show only slight gains or declines. Manufacturing was the biggest decliner due to the end of the salmon harvest. The end of salmon processing also produced a decline in air transportation.

There were two big gainers in August, government and construction. The education sector of local government was entirely responsible for the net growth in government. In construction, the monthly growth was centered in heavy construction. Major dirt and paving jobs are present throughout Anchorage and their employment was approaching or hitting their peaks. Additionally, there were some other jobs starting or building up. The new Peters Creek overpass and the extension of Minnesota Bypass are a couple examples.

Residential construction perked up slightly with a small increase over last year, although employment was still below last year which was dismal. The number of building permits issued by the Municipality of Anchorage for single family residences in August was above last years level for the second month in a row. But you must remember that July of last year was when construction slowed dramatically and permit activity dropped to very low levels. The issuance of 126 single family permits compared to 64 in August of 1975 shows a positive trend, but still construction activity is at a very low level. The issuance of permits for multi-family units remains well below last years level.



NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT 1/ 3/
BY PLACE OF WORK
ANCHORAGE

	P/ 8/80	R/ 7/80	CHANGES FROM: 8/79	7/80	8/79
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY.....	80400	79900	80200	500	200
MINING.....	2250	2250	2000	0	250
CONSTRUCTION.....	6450	5850	7300	600	-850
MANUFACTURING.....	2050	2350	1850	-300	200
FOOD & KINDRED PRODUCTS.....	750	1100	450	-350	300
OTHER MANUFACTURING.....	1300	1250	1400	50	-100
TRANS. COMM. & UTILITIES.....	8900	8850	8600	50	200
TRUCKING & WAREHOUSING.....	1150	1100	1250	50	-100
WATER TRANSPORTATION.....	300	300	350	0	-50
AIR TRANSPORTATION.....	3550	3550	3250	-100	300
OTHER TRANS. COMM.& UTILITIES.	3800	3800	3750	0	50
TRADE.....	17300	17300	17350	0	-50
WHOLESALE TRADE.....	4150	4100	4200	50	-50
RETAIL TRADE.....	13150	13200	13150	-50	0
GENERAL MERCHANDISE	1900	1850	1700	50	200
FOOD STORES.....	1800	1850	1600	-50	200
EATING & DRINKING PLACES....	4550	4550	4750	0	-200
OTHER RETAIL TRADE.....	4900	4950	5100	-50	-200
FINANCE-INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE.	5100	5250	5300	-150	-200
SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS.....	16400	16350	16250	50	150
GOVERNMENT 2/.....	22050	21600	21550	450	500
FEDERAL.....	9350	9500	9650	-150	-300
STATE.....	4350	4350	4550	0	300
LOCAL.....	7350	7250	7350	600	500

1/ PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

2/ INCLUDES TEACHERS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA.

3/ BENCHMARK DATE MARCH 1979.

P/ DENOTES PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES.

R/ DENOTES REVISED ESTIMATES.

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NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT 1/ 3/
BY PLACE OF WORK
ANCHORAGE-MATSU

	P/ 3/30	R/ 7/30	3/79	CHANGES FROM: 7/30	3/79
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY.....	33200	32550	32800	650	400
MINING.....	2300	2250	2000	50	300
CONSTRUCTION.....	6600	6050	7500	550	-900
MANUFACTURING.....	2150	2400	1900	-250	250
TRANSP.-COMM. & UTILITIES.....	9050	9200	8950	-150	100
TRADE.....	13050	13000	12950	50	100
FINANCE-INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE.	5250	5400	5400	-150	-150
SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS.....	16650	16600	16450	50	200
GOVERNMENT 2/.....	23150	22650	22650	500	500

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ANCHORAGE-MATSU LABOR FORCE IN AUGUST

The preliminary first counts are in from the 1980 census, and they held some surprises. Local government officials released the totals and they were lower than anyone had expected or predicted. Estimates for the Anchorage Area ranged from about 180,000 to 205,000, but nobody expected the first field count to be 160,760. In the MatSu Borough the situation was similar. The latest estimates ranged from about 19,000 to over 23,000, but the census numbers are 18,743. In the valley, the bulk of the discrepancy is in the three incorporated cities. The first count in Palmer, Wasilla and Houston totals to only a third of the previous estimates and is considerably less than the former estimate for Wasilla alone.

These counts will almost certainly go up as omissions and errors are corrected, but it is unlikely that the counts will change substantially. However, because of the unexpectedly low counts, and because of their importance for revenue sharing they will be challenged and verified.

One of the more significant events in the valley is underway again. Permits were obtained in late June so that

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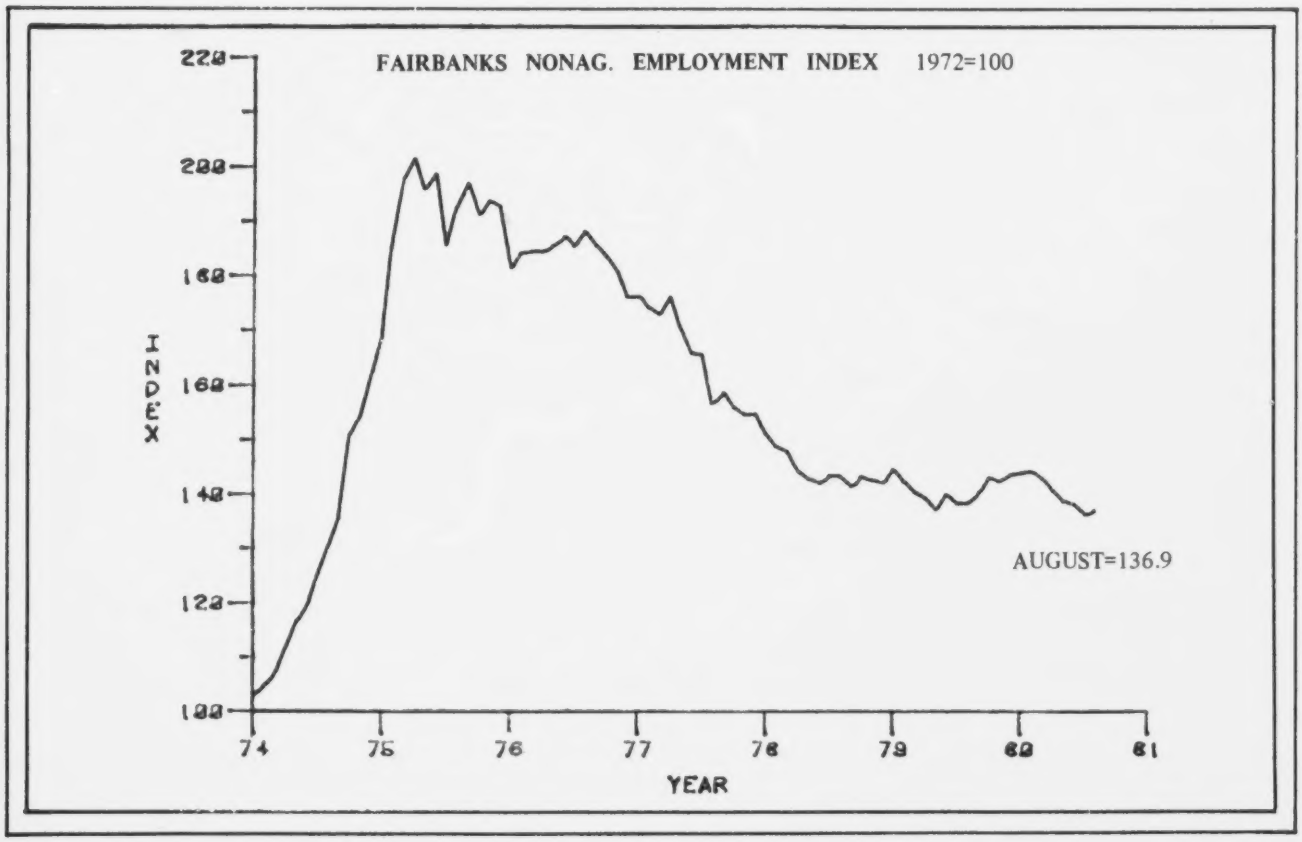
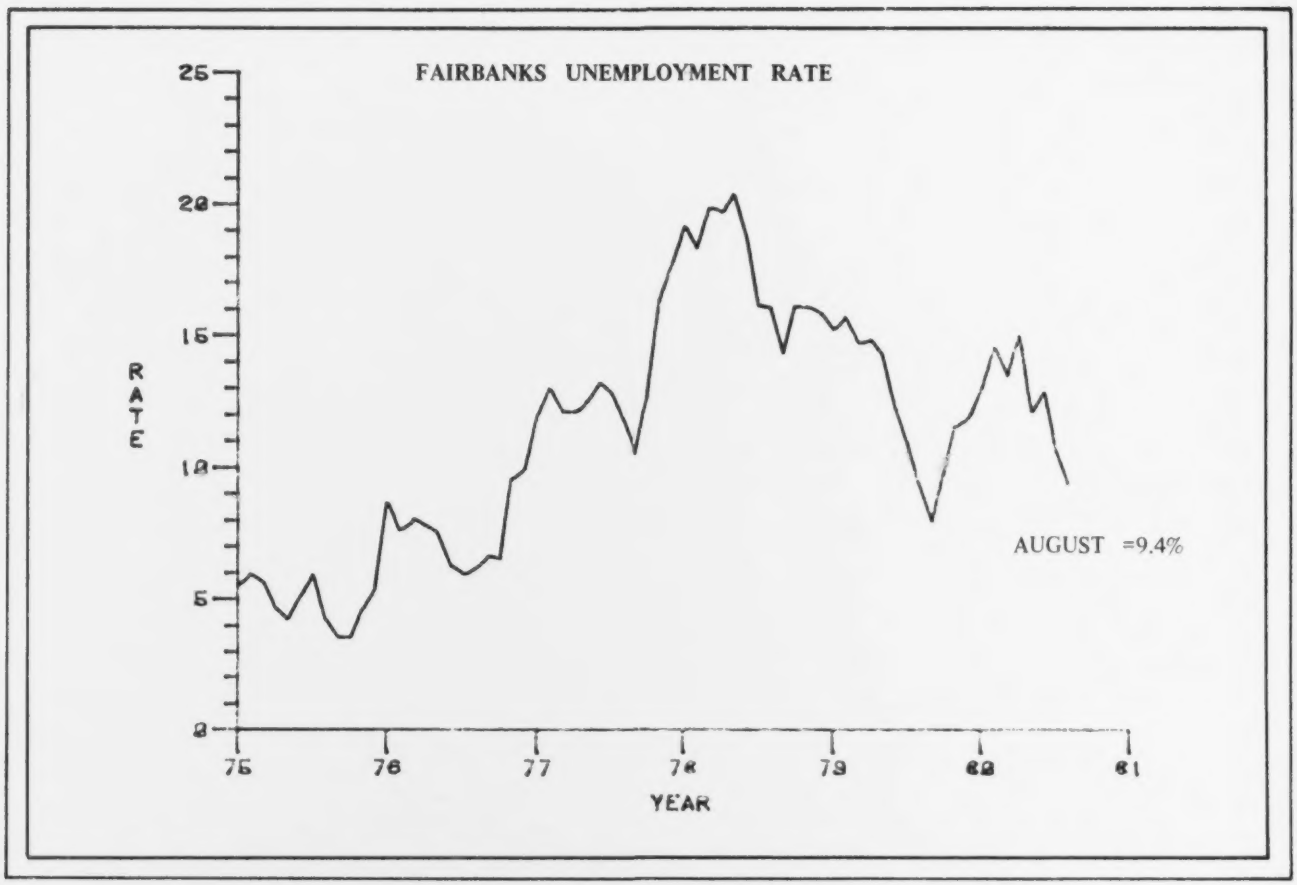
construction could begin once again on the road to Point MacKenzie. It is economically significant, because it will open up a large area for agriculture and coal development as well as reawaken interest in a port development on the north side of Cook Inlet. The project is 21 miles long and spans the distance between Goose Bay and Point MacKenzie. Three firms; Rockford Corporation, R. W. Cramp and Wasilla Excavating and Associates are currently performing dirt work contracts on the first 14 miles of the project. It is expected that a substandard grade will be punched through to Mile 14 by the end of 1980. The final phase of the project, the last 7 miles, will be constructed during calender year 1981.

The unemployment rate in MatSu remains higher than last year. As a matter of fact, the census division has one of the highest rates in the state. The estimate for total unemployment is up by 200, while the estimate for total employment is constant. This results in an unemployment rate of 15.9 percent compared to 13.4 percent last year.

FAIRBANKS' LABOR FORCE IN AUGUST

The unemployment rate declined again in August and it will likely decline again in September, but it should begin its long winter climb in the month of October. However, this October there will be a major difference, because those covered by unemployment insurance benefits will receive increased benefits. The maximum unemployment benefits paid will be raised from the present $120 ($90 base and 10 dollars for each dependent up to three) to $222 ($150 base and 24 dollars for each dependent up to three).





The total dollar amount paid out in benefits in Fairbanks in 1979 was $6.7 million, which was a drop from $10.6 million in 1978. This total amount is expected to fall again this year due to the decline in the number of claimants. With the new higher benefit amount and a likely slight decline in the number of Fairbanks claimants, total payments made in 1981 may remain stable.

On the employment side, wage and salary employment budged slightly upwards in August. Three industries gained employment and an equal number lost workers and two other industries remained stable. The increases were as small as 1 percent for government and as high as 8 percent for construction, with losses ranging from 3 percent in trade and 6 percent in the finance industry. The seasonally adjusted nonagricultural index registered at 136.9 for August, up slightly from July but down by about the same amount compared with last year's index. During the summer months, the index has been 1 or 2 points below last year almost consistantly but during the winter and spring it was almost consistantly above year-ago levels. This points to the summer seasons employment which has been generally sluggish, partially because of a slower than average construction season, a less than robust tourist season, and no new developments in the economy which had an immediate influence on employment levels.

In August both transportation employment and construction got a boost when China Airlines became an added international customer at the Fairbanks International Airport and the long

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT 1/ 3/
BY PLACE OF WORK
FAIRBANKS

	P/ 3/80	R/ 7/80	3/79	CHANGES FROM: 7/80	3/79
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY.....	21750	21700	22100	50	-350
MINING.....	50	50	50	0	0
CONSTRUCTION.....	2000	1850	2150	150	-150
MANUFACTURING.....	600	600	550	0	50
TRANSP.-COMM. & UTILITIES.....	2650	2750	2800	-100	-150
TRUCKING & WAREHOUSING.....	400	450	400	-50	0
AIR TRANSPORTATION.....	650	650	800	0	-150
OTHER TRANS. COMM.& UTILITIES.	1600	1650	1600	-50	0
TRADE.....	3750	3850	4000	-100	-250
WHOLESALE TRADE.....	700	700	700	0	0
RETAIL TRADE.....	3050	3150	3300	-100	-250
GENERAL MERCHANDISE & APPARE	400	450	450	-50	-50
FOOD STORES.....	550	550	550	0	0
OTHER RETAIL TRADE.....	2100	2150	2300	-50	-200
FINANCE-INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE.	750	800	900	-50	-150
SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS.....	4800	4750	4700	50	100
GOVERNMENT 2/.....	7150	7050	6950	100	200
FEDERAL.....	2150	2200	2250	-50	-100
STATE.....	3100	2950	2750	150	350
LOCAL.....	1900	1900	1950	0	-50

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announced hydra-fueling facility at the airport got underway. The entire project is expected to cost $2.5 million and, weather permitting, is expected to be completed in February of next year. The hydra-fueling project is expected to speed up the time needed for fueling the planes. This activity has increased rapidly during the past year-and-a-half as a result of the international cargo flights stopping for refueling in Fairbanks. In April 1979, before international jets became a regular scene in Fairbanks, the fuel flowage was 1 million gallons per month compared to April 1980's 5 million gallons. Rumors of additional international airlines using Fairbanks as a refueling location continue to be heard.

One recent development during the last month which may provide some immediate and long-range stimulus to the economy comes from the last state payment of $272 million dollars made in July to the Native Regional Corporations. The immediate effect comes from the distribution of disbursement checks in July from Doyon Ltd of slightly more than $2000 each, sent to at-large shareholders (the shareholders enrolled in a Regional Corporation, but not in a village corporation). Doyon Ltd., headquartered in Fairbanks, presently has approximately 9050 shareholders, of which approximately 2000 are at-large shareholders. The majority of the at-large share holders reside in the various urban areas in Alaska as well as some outside of the state. This means that a number of Fairbanks residents will be receiving these distribution checks. The remaining money will go to Doyon and the 25 village cooperations in the Doyon Region and their boards of directors will decide what will be done with this money. Doyon also recently mailed out its first dividends of $100 to all of its shareholders. In June, Doyon was conveyed 1.4 million acres of land, making it the third largest private landholder in Alaska. This will all have the effect of providing further stimulus to the Fairbanks economy and the economy throughout the Interior, as further investments and possibly dividends are made.

INTERIOR'S LABOR FORCE IN AUGUST

The Interior's unemployment rate of 10.1 percent and the wage and salary levels for August of 26,334 indicate a lack of the typical seasonal dynamism which usually comes during this time of year. A 0.6 percent increase for wage and salary employment in August is below the normal increase for this month, when activity often moves into high gear to beat the winter season. Normally the rural Interior's employment experiences more seasonality than its urban counterpart because of the nature of its economy, but the balance of Interior's (excluding Fairbanks) employment did not increase any more rapidly than Fairbanks'. This is largely due to the less than normal increases in construction, tourism, firefighting, and trade industries which normally prime the pump of the economy during this time of year. Despite this monthly picture, the employment levels in August are slightly above year-ago levels.

School construction, one of Interior's major boosters during last year's construction season, experienced a much lower level of activity this year. In the coming year on the other hand, the Interior will experience another boost in school construction (refer to article in June TRENDS) activity and some of it will likely commence this year. Two such projects, unlike most, previous construction of primary and secondary schools, will be the construction of two vocational education schools in the Interior, one in Fort Yukon and the other in Delta. Both schools will primarily serve the secondary school students. The Fort Yukon vocational school will concentrate in the areas of clerical and small business management, where its graduates will find opportunities in the regional and village corporations, government and other businesses. Job entry skills will also

be taught in the various trade skills, such as welding and carpentry. The main thrust of these education programs will be to provide skills to the students so that they will be able to find employment upon graduation. The school will be able to provide housing for 42 students. They hope to begin construction on the school in May or June of 1981.

The Delta vocational education school is expected to go out to bid in October and is estimated to cost approximately $750,000. The school will concentrate on agricultural skills such as horticulture, meat cutting, farm welding and other skills needed in an agricultural community. These students will also be largely secondary school students. This is just one of the many agricultural related additions which have come to Delta during the past two years. Delta is one of the few areas of the Interior's present economy, which has an industry that has been expanding beyond historical levels. Delta expects to harvest 14,000 acres this year, (weather permitting) four times the amount which was harvested last year. Of this crop, approximately 13,000 acres are barley, 800-900 acres are oats, 100 acres are wheat and 200 acres of rape seed. The farmers expect to sell 4000-5000 short tons for use within the state; and the state hopes to market the remaining 10-11 thousand tons in Korea, Japan, Taiwan and possibly other far Eastern Countries.

This increase in production has meant that the Alaska Farmers Co-operative in Delta (123 members) has had to double its storage capacity, necessitating additions to the elevators built last year; they expect to double this capacity again next year. The cooperative is also in the midst of constructing a $750,000 fertilizer plant, which will not manufacture fertilizer, but will handle and blend the fertilizer for its members. The cooperative is a farm supply and marketing cooperative.

Barley has been the topic of most interest for obvious reasons, but dairy, pork, and beef operations are being developed as well. A slaughter house and perhaps a complete meat processing plant may get underway within the next year.

A seed plant is also being built in the Delta area to supply local demand and some of its product will also be exported to the U.S. domestic market and foreign markets. In addition a number of equipment dealers have recently expanded in Delta. One of these dealers is Pioneer Equipment, which deals exclusively in farm equipment supplies. It has recently moved into a new facility and expects to be able to win a large share of the expanding farming market in Delta. Other heavy equipment dealers are also expecting increased business from the gasline projects, when it gets underway.

This expansion in agriculture has affected much of Delta's economic infrastructure and will likely continue to exert its influence in the coming years. At this time, Bob Pollock of the Alaska Agricultural Action Council estimates approximately 145 people are presently involved directly in this agricultural development and this figure is expected to grow. Next year it is estimated an additional 15,000 acres will be planted and that next fall 45-50 thousand additional acreas will be auctioned by the state in Delta, bringing the total acreage to 100,000 acres. Nenana is also becoming an area of increased agricultural interest and may eventually see similiar agricultural development. This recent agricultural expansion is broadening Interior's economic infrastructure. Though this industry may be small at present, it may become an important provider of employment to a cross-section of industries in the Interior.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT 1/ 3/
BY PLACE OF WORK
INTERIOR

	P/ 8/80	R/ 7/80	8/79	CHANGES FROM: 7/80	3/79
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY.....	26350	26200	26200	150	150
MINING.....	300	300	150	0	150
CONSTRUCTION.....	2300	2150	2350	150	-50
MANUFACTURING.....	800	800	700	0	100
TRANS. COMM. & UTILITIES.....	3650	3800	3850	-150	-200
TRADE.....	4000	4050	4250	-50	-250
FINANCE-INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE.	900	950	950	-50	-50
SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS.....	5250	5150	5150	100	100
GOVERNMENT 2/.....	9150	9000	8800	150	350

1/ PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

2/ INCLUDES TEACHERS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA.

3/ BENCHMARK DATE MARCH 1979.

P/ DENOTES PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES.

R/ DENOTES REVISED ESTIMATES.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA'S LABOR FORCE IN AUGUST
by Debbie Berggren

Total nonagriculture employment in Southeast Alaska was at the same level as last year, increasing by only 0.7 percent. Unemployment on the other hand increased by 3.6 percent.

During August the unemployment rates for all Southeastern cities, except Skagway, decreased. Skagway's unemployment rate increased to 11.3 percent up from 9.2 percent in July. Transient workers were the contributing factor to this increase.

Employment in the logging sector is down 5.5 percent over last year. This decrease is caused by the early closures of many camps due to a softening market. The sawmill sector experienced a 4.9 percent increase in employment over July, bringing it up to 11.7 percent over last year.

Seafood processing employment reached an unexpected high, 0.7 percent over last year. Good salmon catches, particularly pinks, during the key week (week which includes the 12th), helped to create this increase in employment.

Construction is down over 1979 by 2.9 percent, with building construction down 13.6 percent. Special trades on the other hand is 7.0 percent above last year.

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NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT 1/ 3/
BY PLACE OF WORK
SOUTHEAST ALASKA

	P/	R/		CHANGES FROM:	
	8/80	7/80	8/79	7/80	8/79
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE & SALARY....	29250	28350	29100	900	150
CONSTRUCTION.....	1250	1200	1300	50	-50
MANUFACTURING.....	6000	5650	5950	350	50
TRANS. COMM. & UTILITIES.....	2850	2550	2850	300	0
TRADE.....	4000	3950	4000	50	0
WHOLESALE TRADE.....	400	400	400	0	0
RETAIL TRADE.....	3600	3550	3600	50	0
FINANCE-INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	1150	1100	1250	50	-100
MINING, SERVICES & MISC.....	3600	3500	3400	100	200
GOVERNMENT 2/.....	10400	10400	10350	0	50
FEDERAL.....	2350	2400	2550	-50	-200
STATE.....	4600	4600	4600	0	0
LOCAL.....	3450	3400	3200	50	250

1/ PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

2/ INCLUDES TEACHERS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA.

3/ BENCHMARK DATE MARCH 1979.

P/ DENOTES PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES.

R/ DENOTES REVISED ESTIMATES.

Seasonal increases in the wholesale cold storage plants created a 7.1 percent increase over July in the wholesale trade sector. Retail trade remained relatively stable.

Finance, insurance and real estate on the whole showed some improvement over July, but is still 8.7 percent below year-ago levels.

HOURS AND EARNINGS - July 1980
by Jan Blair

There was no significant change in either hourly earnings or weekly hours in the mining industry from the previous month of June, but there was an increase of 4 percent in the average hourly earnings over those of July 1979. The average weekly hours actually decreased from that of a year ago.

In construction, wages went up 5 percent

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LABOR FORCE BY REGION AND CENSUS DIVISION

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	p/ 3/80	r/ 7/80	3/79	p/ 3/80	r/ 7/80	3/79	p/ 3/80	r/ 7/80	3/79	p/ 3/80	r/ 7/80	3/79
ALASKA STATEWIDE	193455	201445	189512	15421	17342	13375	7.3	8.5	7.1	178044	184104	176135
ANCHORAGE-MATSU REGION	91593	92492	91402	5535	7152	5209	7.2	7.7	5.8	84957	85340	86193
ANCHORAGE	83352	84504	83865	5407	5305	5202	6.4	6.9	6.2	78445	78799	78663
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA	7741	7988	7537	1229	1345	1007	15.9	17.1	13.4	6512	6542	6530
GULF COAST REGION	27413	28207	24251	2248	2721	1791	8.2	9.6	7.4	25165	25485	22459
CORDOVA	1514	1573	1339	90	130	68	5.9	8.3	5.1	1424	1443	1271
KENAI	14545	14833	12971	1411	1429	1153	9.6	9.6	8.9	13235	13404	11818
KODIAK	5011	5473	5338	313	703	253	5.2	10.9	4.7	5593	5770	5085
SEWARD	2004	2033	1757	154	170	115	8.2	8.4	6.5	1340	1353	1642
VALDEZ	3238	3295	2846	270	289	197	8.3	8.8	6.9	2958	3006	2649
INTERIOR REGION	25377	25731	24930	2523	3033	2392	10.1	11.3	9.6	23454	23393	22539
FAIRBANKS	21274	21797	20449	1990	2312	1918	9.4	10.6	9.4	19284	19435	18531
SOUTHEAST FAIRBANKS	2013	2115	1948	201	254	178	9.3	12.0	9.1	1342	1351	1770
UPPER YUKON	541	541	480	124	120	79	22.9	22.2	16.5	417	421	401
YUKON-KOYUKUK	2219	2278	2053	308	347	217	13.9	15.2	10.6	1911	1931	1835
NORTHERN REGION	9123	9209	8413	771	952	637	8.5	10.3	7.6	8352	8257	7731
BARROW-NORTH SLOPE	3493	3495	3233	155	200	133	4.7	5.7	5.6	3333	3295	3105
KOBUK	2423	2471	2219	295	357	235	12.2	14.9	10.6	2128	2104	1933
NOME	3202	3243	2912	311	395	219	9.7	11.9	7.5	2891	2858	2693
SOUTHEAST REGION	31492	31201	30593	2109	2359	1548	6.7	7.6	5.0	29383	28841	29150
ANGOON	365	360	351	41	42	39	11.2	11.7	10.8	324	318	322
HAINES	924	918	858	114	123	54	12.3	13.4	6.3	810	795	804
JUNEAU	11178	11050	10937	645	720	539	5.8	6.5	4.9	10533	10330	10443
KETCHIKAN	7249	7182	7076	443	502	324	6.1	7.0	4.6	6805	6680	6752
OUTER KETCHIKAN	1164	1152	1134	84	92	62	7.2	8.0	5.5	1080	1060	1072
PRINCE OF WALES	1502	1511	1475	98	133	82	6.5	8.8	5.6	1404	1378	1393
SITKA	4140	4137	4051	251	320	203	6.1	7.7	5.0	3889	3817	3859
SKAGWAY	1705	1634	1595	193	150	95	11.3	9.2	6.0	1512	1484	1500
WRANGELL-PETERSBURG	3265	3247	3150	240	273	149	7.4	8.4	4.7	3025	2969	3001
SOUTHWEST REGION	12767	13396	9313	1034	1124	799	8.1	8.3	8.1	11733	12492	9014
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS	3222	3434	2497	134	149	125	4.2	4.3	5.0	3088	3285	2372
BETHEL	4329	4513	3257	469	507	292	10.8	11.0	9.0	3860	4105	2965
BRISTOL BAY BOROUGH	567	599	436	27	24	21	4.8	4.0	4.8	540	575	415
BRISTOL BAY	1581	1581	1240	76	30	34	4.8	4.8	6.8	1505	1601	1155
KUSKOKWIM	1197	1295	942	155	185	141	12.9	14.4	15.0	1042	1109	801
WADE HAMPTON	1371	1931	1441	173	178	135	9.2	9.0	9.4	1593	1805	1305

p/=Preliminary r/=Revised 1979 Benchmark

Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey (CPS) in formulas used to allocate federal funds. Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor; because Alaska's CPS sample size is inadequate to accurately indicate monthly changes in level. The sampling errors are random in nature; meaning that the unemployment rates, in any given month, are as likely to be high as frequently as they are low. The official definitions of unemployment, currently in place, exclude anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four week period up to and including the week that includes the twelfth of each month. Most economists feel that Alaska's bush localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.

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for July and up 9 percent as compared to the same month of 1979, even though the average weekly hours did not change significantly on either a monthly or an annual basis.

The food manufacturing industry reflected the greatest change in average weekly hours, with a 31 percent increase from June's average weekly hours. This was due primarily to the activity created by the Bristol Bay salmon run in early July. Even though there was a slight drop in hours for the wood processing industry, for manufacturing as a whole average hours were up following the trend of the seafood processing industry which in July was about 51 percent of all manufacturing employment.

However, this tremendous jump in employment adversely affected the average hourly earnings, with a 9 percent decrease as compared to June. On a yearly comparison, however, both hours and earnings went up by 10 percent and 13 percent respectively. With the exception of wholesale trade, Trade is especially interesting with wholesale trade realizing the greatest hourly wage increase from a year ago, and over twice the increase in wages of retail trade. On a monthly comparison, wholesale trade shows the most significant decrease in hours.

Along with manufacturing, the finance, insurance and real estate sector has suffered a decrease in weekly earnings for July, but has managed to maintain a 7 percent increase in earnings over July 1979 figures.
manufacturing showed the greatest advance in wages amongst these selected industries.

Transportation, communication and utilities also showed increases in the average weekly hours from June. However, this industry has the smallest percentage increase in wages from a year ago and, along with mining, the greatest percentage decrease in average weekly hours, indicating a 4 percent drop from July 1979.

ALASKA
HOURS AND EARNINGS
FOR
SELECTED INDUSTRIES 1/ 2/

	AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS		
	p/ 7/80	r/ 6/80	7/79	p/ 7/80	r/ 6/80	7/79	p/ 7/80	r/ 6/80	7/79
MINING	17.80	17.88	17.04	49.8	50.4	51.7	886.44	901.15	880.97
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	20.33	19.29	19.73	43.0	43.1	43.6	874.19	831.40	816.63
MANUFACTURING	9.50	10.49	8.42	49.1	37.4	44.7	466.45	392.33	376.37
Food & Kindred Products	7.77	7.56	6.90	52.2	34.6	45.8	405.59	261.58	311.44
Lumber & Paper Products	14.72	13.75	12.99	40.8	41.7	42.3	609.53	573.33	549.48
TRANSPORTATION, COMM. & UTILITIES	13.40	12.73	12.99	36.5	34.2	33.2	490.44	435.37	496.22
TRADE	9.12	9.04	8.24	35.0	35.9	35.4	319.20	324.54	291.70
Wholesale Trade	11.44	11.23	9.90	38.2	43.6	39.1	437.01	491.81	383.13
Retail Trade	8.20	8.13	7.52	33.9	33.7	34.1	277.98	275.67	259.84
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	--	--	--	--	--	--	273.40	280.70	259.41

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics US Department of Labor

2/ excludes eating and drinking establishments

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS SERIES: Averages are based on data for full and part time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

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